GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3167
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2000
RELATIONS WITH TURKEY
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Turkey have decided to deepen their political ties by holding a regular dialogue in specific area of common security interests;

(b) if so, whether this process of holding sectoral dialogue has in effect been already initiated during the recent visit of India by the Turkish special envoy on Afghanistan;

(c) whether during the discussion focused attention in areas of special interest decided to pay special attention to joint forays in the oil and gas sector in Central Asia;

(d) if so, whether during the discussion External Affairs Minister invited the Turkish Foreign Minister to visit India;

(e) if so, whether Turkish Prime Minister is also likely to visit India; and

(f) if so, the extent to which the relations between the two countries have further been strengthen?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) Indo-Turkish relations are traditional and historical. High-level exchanges are a regular feature in our bilateral relations. During Foreign Office Consultations, discussions take place on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual concern.

(b) & (c) During the Foreign Office Consultations and as a part of the discussions on the international situation, India and Turkey have from time to time, exchanged views on the situation prevailing in Afghanistan. India and Turkey have also felt that potential for third country cooperation, including with Central Asian countries, in the economic and commercial area was available and that this should be exploited.

(d) The External Affairs Minister has invited the Turkish Foreign Minister to visit India.

(e) The Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, His Excellency Mr. Bulent Ecevit is scheduled to pay a State visit to India from March 30- April 2, 2000.

(f) The regular high-level exchanges between India and the Republic of Turkey and interaction at Ministerial and official levels have contributed to the expansion and development of our bilateral relations and to the mutual understanding on all issues of interest and concern.